GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2672
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
School Dropouts
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the high school dropout rate in the country;
(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether the said survey has revealed that the percentage of school dropouts among Muslims and Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes is much higher than the national average and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(d) whether the survey also reveals that the number of school dropouts in the age group of 6-13 years has decreased and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve retention rate and minimize dropout rate in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)
(a) to (c) : As per the annual Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) data on various educational indicators including annual average dropout rates collected by National University of Educational and Planning and Administration (NUEPA), the annual average dropout rates of children pertaining to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Muslim at primary and upper primary levels during 2012-13 and 2013-14 are as given below:-
<pre>
Year Annual Average dropout rate
SC ST Muslim National
Primary Upper
Primary
Primary Upper
Primary
Primary Upper
Primary
Primary Upper
Primary
2012-13 5.2% 12.9% 9.0% 6.2% 2.5% 5.6% 5.6% 2.7%
2013-14 6.1% 4.6% 8.4% 7.9% 5.6% 6.8% 4.7% 3.1%
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The statement showing the state-wise details on annual average dropout rate of SCs, STs, Muslims and at National level for primary and upper primary during 2012-13 & 2013-14 are at Annexure, which shows that the annual average dropout rates of SCs, STs & Muslims are slightly higher than the national average.
(d) : As per UDISE, the number of dropout children have reduced from 75.48 lakh in 2012-13 to 62.24 lakh in 2013-14 at primary level. However, the number of dropout children have increased from 17.50 lakh to 20.61 lakh during the same period at upper primary level.
(e) : SSA programme provides a number of incentives to encourage enrolment and retention and to reduce the out of school or dropout children in schools. These include enhancing access to primary, upper primary schools, strengthening school infrastructure like school building, additional classrooms, toilets, drinking water facilities etc., improving the teachers pupil ratio as well as strategies for gender positive textbooks, gender sensitization of teachers and educational administrators. In addition, 3602 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas or residential schools for girls belonging predominantly to the SC, ST, OBC and minorities at upper primary level in educationally backward blocks of the country have been set up. The mid-day meal programme is implemented in elementary schools, to help retain children in schools.
The identification of Special Focus Districts (SFDs) is an important step in the direction of providing universal access & retention and quality education to SCs, STs and minority students at the elementary level. These districts are identified based on indicators like concentration of out of school children, high gender gap, low retention rate and infrastructure gap as well as concentration of SC/ST/Minority population. During 2014-15 and 2015-16, 42.8% and 49% of the funds under

SSA respectively were targeted to SFDs.
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